



The 4-H/Bosnia Youth Leadership Program



1. What is the program about?

The U.S. Embassy in Sarajevo has sponsored this program annually since 1999. This year, Delaware 4-H was selected from among many applicants to host the program. The key elements of the program are:

- a. Help participants understand the concepts of civic participation and the responsibilities of citizens in a democracy
- b. Develop leadership skills among secondary school students in Bosnia
- c. Build personal relationships between Bosnian teens and Delaware teens

2. When is the program?

The Bosnian group will arrive in the U.S. on April 9, 2006, and depart May 6, 2006

3. How many are coming?

There will be 15 teens and 3 adult chaperones who are teachers.

4. Who selects the Bosnian participants?

The U.S. Embassy in Sarajevo will conduct the selection process. Every effort will be made to have a diverse group be selected. The teens will be from three separate cities in Bosnia where the ethnic majority is either Croat, Bosniak or Serbian.

5. Can they speak English?

Yes. Fluency in English is a requirement for selection. In addition, the selection team is looking for teens that are leaders in their community, and are committed to making a change in their community through the implementation of a project. A pre-departure orientation will give the participants background information in American culture as well as information about Delaware and 4-H.

6. Where is Bosnia?

Bosnia is part of the former country of Yugoslavia in Eastern Europe. It is roughly across the Adriatic Sea from Italy.



7. Isn't there a war going on there?

No. The war ended in 1995 with the signing of the Dayton Peace Accords, brokered by then President Clinton. U.S. and U.N. peacekeeping forces are in the country to maintain order.

8. How can my family be involved?

There are two ways your family can be involved.

- a. Serve as a host family for one or two teens or an adult teacher for a two-week period.
- b. Serve on the planning committee for the program (teens and adults).

9. Why are families hosting only two weeks when the program is four weeks?

We want as many families and 4-H members as possible exposed to the program so we are looking for host families upstate for two weeks and downstate for two weeks.

10. What responsibilities does a host family have?

We are asking the host families to provide the same kind of experience that you would provide to any guest. These include a place to sleep, meals and an exposure to American family life. The program will be loaded with activities for the participants, so no extra activities by the families are required.

11. Will our visitors be going to school with our kids?

We would like the visitors to go to school with their hosts for one day so they can have that experience, but for the bulk of the stay the Bosnian teens will be involved in programs and activities.

12. If we host one or two Bosnian teens will we receive information about them before they arrive?

Yes. We will share information about the visitors and hope to establish email contact between the Delaware and Bosnian teens prior to their arrival here in the U.S.

13. What will the Bosnian teens be doing while they are in the U.S.?

The program will be keeping the Bosnian teens very busy. In addition to overnight trips to New York and Washington D.C., and a day trip to Philadelphia, the teens will be involved in a variety of workshops and learning experiences in areas such as conflict resolution, community mapping, democracy education and more. The participants will be from three different areas of Bosnia and will be divided into three teams. They will be trained using the 4-H T.R.Y. (Teens Reaching Youth) model to design and implement a project back home in Bosnia. This is perhaps the most important part of the project. In addition, the teens will get a healthy dose of 4-H in the hopes that perhaps the 4-H model will spread to Bosnia.

14. Will the 4-H'ers be going to Bosnia?

This is not an exchange trip and no funds are available for that. A trip to Bosnia by 4-H members is not out of the question, but that will need to be developed and implemented separately if enough interest exists and if other concerns are met.

15. Can 4-H members participate in the programs with the Bosnian teens?

Absolutely! That's why we have scheduled the first week during spring break and why we are moving the program around the state. We realize that participation in school and school activities will limit participation. Some activities may have a cost associated with them, as the grant that is funding this program does not cover many expenses for host families.

16. What else do I need to know?

We will have two vans with drivers at our disposal during the program. We are looking for people who might be interested in filling those roles. They pay really well but you must be 21. You can do a two-week or four-week stint! In addition, we may be looking for a paid person to help coordinate the program in April and May. The logistics of moving 18 people around can be daunting. If you are interested, let your county 4-H agent know.

17. Who can I contact for more information?

Contact your county 4-H agent or Mark Manno at the State 4-H Office. His phone is 831-2997 and email is mmanno@udel.edu

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